

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SAJ-01 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01

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R 211430Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, CZ, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND

CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: PRAGUE 714 AND 979 (NOTAL)

1. HAMPL OF CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (COK)
INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 21 THAT LETTER FROM COK
PRESIDENT CERNY TO CALDWELL OF U.S. CHAMBER, ATTACHING
COUNTER-DRAFT OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO CHAMBERS,
HAD BEEN DELIVERED MAY 15 BY CZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL
ATTACHE COLEK IN WASHINGTON TO CALDWELL AND WILSON OF
U.S. CHAMBER. COUNTER-DRAFT, WHICH HAMPL BELIEVES CLOSE
ENOUGH TO ORIGINAL U.S. DRAFT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN REACH-

ING AGREEMENT, CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN
SECTION IN COK AND CZECHOSLOVAK SECTION IN U.S. CHAMBER,
THE TWO SECTIONS FORMING TOGETHER THE "CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN
ECONOMIC COUNCIL". CERNY LETTER SUGGESTED CALDWELL OR
BOOTH OF U.S. CHAMBER MIGHT VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO INITIAL
AGREEMENT, WITH SIGNATURE TO FOLLOW IN U.S. IN LAST QUARTER
OF THIS YEAR.

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2. COK HAS JUST HEARD FROM VELEK THAT U.S. CHAMBER

DELEGATION COMPOSED OF NEW CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF U.S. CHAMBER, CHARLES SMITH, PLUS CALDWELL AND "WILTEN" (PRESUMABLY WILSON) AND WIVES OF SMITH AND "WILTEN" WILL ARRIVE PRAGUE FROM BUDAPEST JUNE 5 AT 1240 VIA OK 863. SMITH IS TO LEAVE PRAGUE JUNE 7, WITH CALDWELL AND WILSON REMAINING OVER JUNE 8-9 WEEKEND. COK IS ARRANGING ACCOMMODATIONS.

3. HAMPL ASKED US TO MENTION THAT IT APPEARS CERNY, WHO MUST MAKE LONG-SCHEDULED TRIP TO ITALY, MAY NOT RETURN FROM ITALY UNTIL LATE JUNE 7. COK FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MATUSKA WILL THEREFORE BE RANKING COK OFFICIAL RECEIVING THE VISITORS; BUT HAMPL WONDERED IF SMITH COULD POSSIBLY STAY OVER TO JUNE 8 IN ORDER TO SEE CERNY. (INCIDENTALLY HAMPL NOTED THAT SMITH HAD ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PETER.)

4. HAMPL DESCRIBED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WAS ALSO IN FAVOR, BUT INSISTED THAT IT MUST LEAD TO CONCRETE RESULTS IN TRADE FIELD. COK HOPED THAT AMERICANS NAMED TO CZECHOSLOVAK SECTION OF U.S. CHAMBER WOULD BE INFLUENTIAL PERSONS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING BILATERAL TRADE, AND THAT CONCRETE DISCUSSION ON JOINT PROGRAM FOR 1975 COULD TAKE PLACE WHEN CERNY TOOK MISSION TO U.S. FOR FINAL SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT (AND TO VISIT U.S. SOUTH AND FAR WEST) LATER THIS YEAR.

5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO U.S. CHAMBER'S VISIT. WILL APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF DATES, AND INDICATION WHETHER MR. SMITH CAN EXTEND HIS STAY IN ORDER TO MEET WITH MR. CERNY. WORTZEL

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